

16 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

VIA : Chief, OPSER

SUBJECT : Status of CS Historical Program
as of 15 June 1970

REFERENCE : Executive Secretary, CSHB Memo,
dated 11 May 70; Subj: Review of
Historical Programs of CS Components

1. As a result of the review called for by referent memorandum, the entire CS Historical program now involves 315 individual papers of which 143 have been published. This leaves 172 papers to be completed. Tab A breaks these figures down by CS components.

2. By elimination of some papers and consolidation of others the total number in the CS program has been reduced through periodic reviews from 397 to the present figure of 315. Notwithstanding this reduction several divisions and staffs have stated that, with available personnel, they will not be able to meet the 31 December deadline established by the Executive Director-Comptroller for the completion of the "catch-up" phase (1945-65) of the program. WH and AF Divisions have acknowledged this in the production schedules submitted to the CSHB. AF states that six of their histories cannot be completed until 1972 and one not until 1973. WH cannot complete three histories until 1972. While the production schedules for all other divisions and staffs call for meeting the December 1971 deadline, a number have grave doubts that their schedules can be maintained. Factors affecting this problem include:

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a. Non-availability of personnel: Not allowing for early retirement, we have 40 people working full time on the CS historical program (exclusive of the CS Historical Staff) and 22 part-time workers. Some components, however, notably AF, DO, FI, FI/D and CI Staff, have had only one officer who could be made available full-time for assignment to historical work. Others have had to nominate writers who have other full-time assignments. Productivity of the latter group cannot be expected to be high. A number of writers designated for assignment to historical work are not expected to begin the necessary research for the task until some future date. Some of these designated writers are still overseas and have not yet been advised of their projected assignments.

b. Early retirement of historical officers and writers: A list of CS HO's and HW's who have either retired or are known to be retiring in the near future follows:

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While, as noted, some of the above are due to be replaced, the loss of time and experience is a not-inconsiderable factor affecting our ability to meet the December 1971 deadline.

c. Low Morale: A number of individuals currently in the program have received their "Dear John" letters or have otherwise been advised that they will be expected to retire upon completion of their present writing assignments. Again, productivity from these officers cannot be expected to be high. Lack of adequate space and clerical assistance have also adversely affected the morale of personnel in the historical program and generally slowed the production of finished histories. For example: The FE historical staff has had no clerical support and one of its writers retired early after being asked to relocate himself three times in a

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very short period. Generally speaking, assignment to historical work has been regarded as a way station to retirement or an assignment to limbo.

d. Chief, Historical Staff insistence on professional historical format: My recent memorandum, concurred in by all members of the CS Historical Board, dealt with this subject. The great preponderance of CS historical writers have not found it possible to adhere to the standards desired by the Chief/HS which, they feel, also seriously detract from the value of their historical-type product for training and indoctrinating new CS officers.

e. Some CS components, anxious to evidence their willingness to meet the 1971 suspense date have, in my judgment, over estimated or, perhaps, made an optimum appraisal of their ability to produce histories.

3. In view of the foregoing, it is recommended that Col. White be apprised of the probability that the CS, despite exerting maximum effort, will be unable to complete its historical program within the time limit he has established.

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Executive Secretary
CS Historical Board

Attachment:
As stated

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